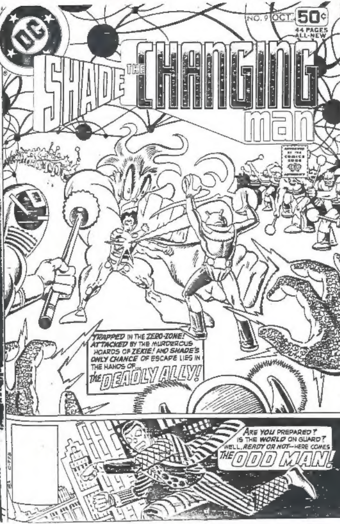

DC
NO. 9 OCT.
50¢
44 PAGES ALL-NEW
SHADE THE CHANGING MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
TRAPPED IN THE ZERO-ZONE! ATTACKED BY THE MURDEROUS HOARDS OF ZEKIE! AND SHADE'S ONLY CHANCE OF ESCAPE LIES IN THE HANDS OF... THE DEADLY ALLY!
ARE YOU PREPARED? IS THE WORLD ON GUARD? WELL, READY OR NOT--HERE COMES THE ODD MAN!

YELLOW

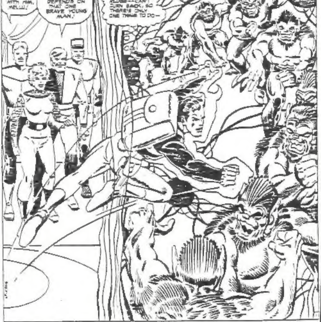
BLACK T 5

SHADE THE CHANGING MAN

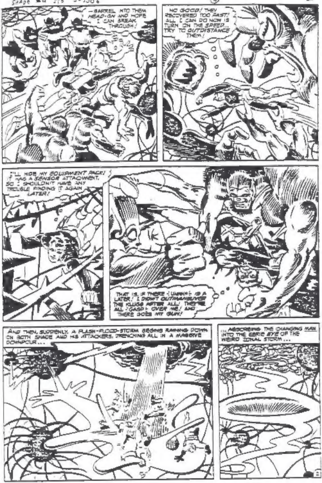
THE DEADLY ALLY!

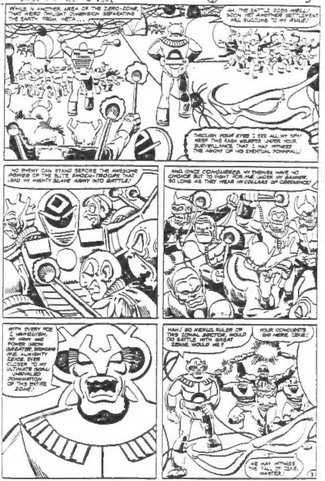
CREATED AND DRAWN BY: STEVE DITKO ★ DIALOGUE BY: MICHAEL FLEISHER ★ EDITED BY: JACK C. HARRIS
LETTERED BY: BEN ODA ★ COLORED BY: JERRY SERPE

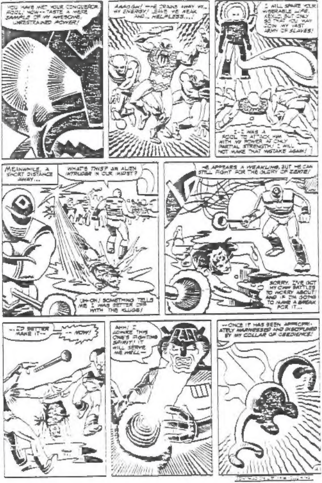
FULLY RECOVERED AT LAST FROM HIS AGONIZING COLOR COMA, RAC SHADE, THE INCREDIBLE CHANGING MAN, HAS AGREED TO JOURNEY TO THE *EARTH-ZONE* TO BATTLE THE DIABOLICAL DR. Z.Z. IN RETURN FOR A PROMISE BY *PRESIDENT OLON* TO LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE INVESTIGATION TO CLEAR SHADE OF THE CHARGE OF TREASON, AND NOW, AS SHADE DEPARTS *META*...


WE ALL WISH WE WERE GOING WITH HIM, MELLU!
THE FATE OF BOTH THE EARTH-ZONE AND META-ZONE DEPENDS ON THAT ONE BRAVE YOUNG MAN!
UH-OH! I'M OFF TO A BAD START ALREADY! IT'S A BAND OF KILLER KLUGS--CAN'T TURN BACK, SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO--

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN, [illegible] 1978. Published bi-monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright © 1978 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.


–BARREL INTO THEM HEAD-ON AND HOPE I CAN BREAK THROUGH!
NO GOOD! THEY RECOVERED TOO FAST! ALL I CAN DO NOW IS TURN ON THE SPEED... TRY TO OUTDISTANCE THEM!
I'LL HIDE MY EQUIPMENT PACK! IT HAS A SENSOR ATTACHMENT, SO I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING IT AGAIN LATER!
THAT IS, IF THERE –UNNH!– IS A LATER! I DIDN'T OUTMANEUVER THE KLUGS AFTER ALL! THEY'RE ALL –GASP!– OVER ME! AND THERE GOES MY GUN!
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, A FLASH-FLOOD-STORM BEGINS RAINING DOWN ON BOTH SHADE AND HIS ATTACKERS, DRENCHING ALL IN A MASSIVE DOWNPOUR...
...ABSORBING THE CHANGING MAN INTO THE EERIE EYE OF THE WEIRD ZONAL STORM...


WHILE IN ANOTHER AREA OF THE ZERO-ZONE, THAT WEIRD TWILIGHT DIMENSION SEPARATING THE EARTH FROM META...
AH, THE BATTLE GOES WELL! SOON YET ANOTHER SETTLEMENT WILL SUCCUMB TO MY RULE!
THROUGH YOUR EYES I SEE ALL, MY SPY! KEEP THIS RASH USURPER UNDER YOUR SURVEILLANCE THAT I MAY WITNESS THE AGONY OF HIS EVENTUAL DOWNFALL!
NO ENEMY CAN STAND BEFORE THE AWESOME POWER OF THE ELITE SHOCK-TROOPS THAT LEAD MY MIGHTY SLAVE ARMY INTO BATTLE!
AND ONCE CONQUERED, MY ENEMIES HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT FOR ME, UNDER MY BANNER, SO LONG AS THEY WEAR MY COLLARS OF OBEDIENCE!
WITH EVERY FOE I VANQUISH, MY ARMY AND POWER GROW GREATER, BRINGING ME, ALMIGHTY ZEXOS, EVER CLOSER TO MY ULTIMATE GOAL: UNRIVALED DOMINATION OF THIS ENTIRE ZONE!
HAH! SO MEKKO, RULER OF THIS ZONAL SECTOR, WOULD DO BATTLE WITH GREAT ZEXOS, WOULD HE?
YOUR CONQUESTS END HERE, ZEXOS!
WE MAY WITNESS THE FALL OF ZEXOS, MASTER!
3


YOU HAVE MET YOUR CONQUEROR, FOOL! NOW--TASTE A MERE SAMPLE OF MY AWESOME, UNRESTRAINED POWER!
AAAGGH! HE DRAINS AWAY MY... MY ENERGY! LEAVE ME WEAK AND... HELPLESS...!
I WILL SPARE YOUR MISERABLE LIFE, KENLO, BUT ONLY SO THAT YOU MAY JOIN MY VAST ARMY OF SLAVES!
I-I WAS A FOOL TO ATTACK HIM WITH MY POWER AT ONLY PARTIAL STRENGTH! I WILL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN!
MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
WHAT'S THIS? AN ALIEN INTRUDER IN OUR MIDST?
UH-OH! SOMETHING TELLS ME I WAS BETTER OFF WITH THE KLUGS!
HE APPEARS A WEAKLING, BUT HE CAN STILL FIGHT FOR THE GLORY OF ZENTE!
SORRY. I'VE GOT MY OWN BATTLES TO WORRY ABOUT! AND IF I'M GOING TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT...
--I'D BETTER MAKE IT--
--NOW!
AHH! I ADMIRE THIS ONE'S FIGHTING SPIRIT! IT WILL SERVE ME WELL--
--ONCE IT HAS BEEN APPROPRIATELY HARNESSED AND DISCIPLINED BY MY COLLAR OF OBEDIENCE!

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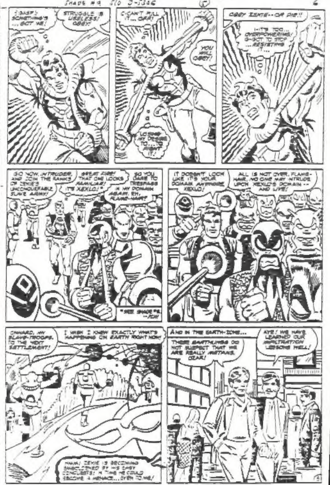
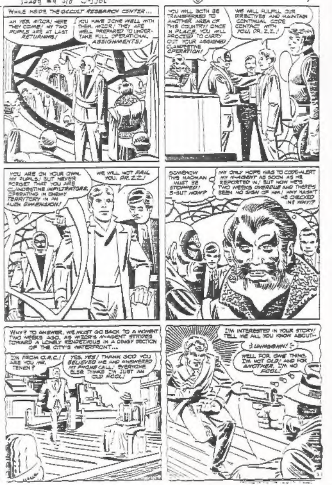
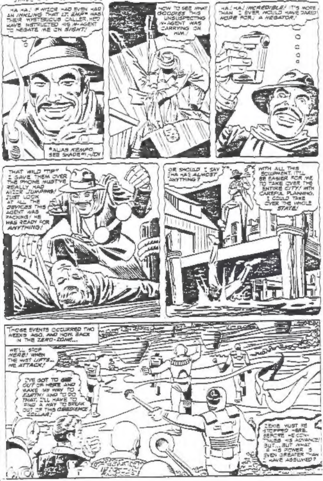
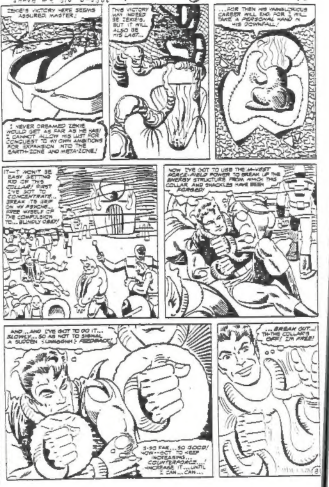
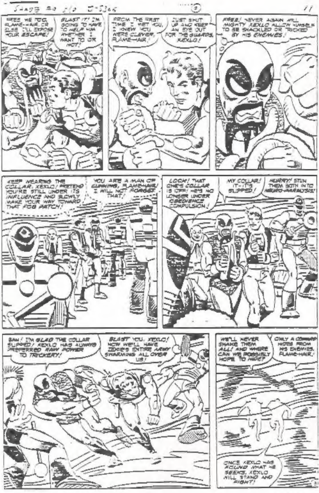

GASP! SOMETHING'S ...GOT ME!
STRUGGLE IS USELESS! OBEY!
C-CAN'T PULL IT... OFF!
YOU WILL OBEY!
LOSING MY DESIRE TO... TO FIGHT IT!
OBEY ZENIE--OR DIE!!
I-IT'S TOO... OVERPOWERING! G-GOT TO STOP ...RESISTING IT...
SO NOW, INTRUDER, AND JOIN THE RANKS OF ZENIE'S UNCONQUERABLE SLAVE ARMY!
GREAT FIRE! THAT ONE LOOKS FAMILIAR! IT'S XEXLO!*
SO YOU DARE TO TRESPASS IN MY DOMAIN AGAIN, EH, FLAME-HAIR?
*SEE SHADE #6. --JOE
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S YOUR DOMAIN ANYMORE, XEXLO!
ALL IS NOT OVER, FLAME-HAIR. NO ONE MAY INTRUDE UPON XEXLO'S DOMAIN -- AND LIVE!
ONWARD, MY SLAVE-TROOPS, TO THE NEXT SETTLEMENT!
I WISH I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING ON EARTH RIGHT NOW!
HMM! ZENIE IS BECOMING [illegible] BY HIS EASY CONQUESTS! IN TIME HE COULD BECOME A MENACE...EVEN TO ME!
AND IN THE EARTH-ZONE...
THESE EARTHLINGS DO NOT SUSPECT THAT WE ARE REALLY METANS, DEAR!
AYE! WE HAVE LEARNED OUR ADAPTATION LESSONS WELL!
4


WHILE INSIDE THE OCCULT RESEARCH CENTER...
AH YES, WIZOR! HERE THEY COME! MY TWO PUPILS ARE AT LAST RETURNING!
YOU HAVE DONE WELL WITH THEM, WIZOR! THEY ARE WELL PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE FULL OPERATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS!
YOU WILL BOTH BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER AREA OF THIS COUNTRY! ONCE IN PLACE, YOU WILL PROCEED TO CARRY OUT YOUR ASSIGNED CLANDESTINE OPERATION!
WE WILL FULFILL OUR DIRECTIVES AND MAINTAIN CONTINUAL CODE CONTACT WITH YOU, DR. Z.Z.!
YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN, MY PUPILS! BUT NEVER FORGET THAT YOU ARE CLANDESTINE INFILTRATORS, OPERATING IN ENEMY TERRITORY IN AN ALIEN DIMENSION!
WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU, DR. Z.Z.!
SOMEHOW THIS MADMAN MUST BE STOPPED! B-BUT HOW?
MY ONLY HOPE WAS TO CODE-ALERT MY N-AGENT AS SOON AS HE REPORTED IN! BUT NOW HE'S TWO WEEKS OVERDUE AND THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF HIM! WHY HASN'T HE CHECKED IN? WHY!?
WHY? TO ANSWER, WE MUST GO BACK TO A MOMENT TWO WEEKS AGO, AS WIZOR'S N-AGENT STRIDES TOWARD A LONELY RENDEZVOUS IN A DINGY SECTION OF THE CITY'S WATERFRONT...
I'M FROM O.R.C.! ARE YOU MR. TENEN?
YES, YES! THANK GOD YOU BELIEVED ME AND ANSWERED MY PHONE CALL! EVERYONE ELSE THINKS I'M JUST AN OLD FOOL!
I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR STORY! TELL ME ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT--
UNNHHH!
WELL FOR ONE THING, I'M NOT OLD! AND FOR ANOTHER, I'M NO FOOL!


HA HA! IF WIZOR HAD EVEN HAD AN INKLING THAT LT. EMP* WAS THEIR MYSTERIOUS CALLER, HE'D HAVE INSTRUCTED HIS M-AGENT TO NEGATE ME ON SIGHT!
*ALIAS KEMPO, SEE SHADE #1.-JCH
NOW TO SEE WHAT GOODIES THIS UNSUSPECTING M-AGENT WAS CARRYING ON HIM!
HA! HA! INCREDIBLE! IT'S MORE THAN I EVER WOULD HAVE DARED HOPE FOR, A NEGATOR!
THAT WILD "TIP" I GAVE THEM OVER THE PHONE MUST'VE REALLY HAD WIZOR JUMPING! JUST LOOK AT ALL THE DEVICES THIS AGENT WAS PACKING! HE WAS READY FOR ANYTHING!
OR SHOULD I SAY WHO HAS ALMOST ANYTHING?
WITH ALL THIS EQUIPMENT, IT'LL BE EASIER FOR ME TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE CITY! WITH CAREFUL PLANNING, I COULD TAKE OVER THE WHOLE STATE!
THOSE EVENTS OCCURRED TWO WEEKS AGO, AND NOW BACK IN THE ZERO-ZONE...
WE'LL STOP HERE! WHEN THE MIST LIFTS... WE ATTACK!
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND MAKE MY WAY TO EARTH! AND TO DO THAT, I'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO BREAK OUT OF THIS OBEDIENCE COLLAR!
SHADE MUST BE STOPPED HERE, BEFORE HE CON-TINUES HIS ADVANCE! BUT... BUT WHAT IF HIS POWER IS EVEN GREATER THAN I HAVE ASSUMED?


ZEKIE'S VICTORY HERE SEEMS ASSURED, MASTER!
I NEVER DREAMED ZEKIE WOULD GET AS FAR AS HE HAS! I CANNOT ALLOW HIS LUST FOR CONQUEST TO MY OWN AMBITIONS FOR EXPANSION INTO THE EARTH-ZONE AND META-ZONE!
THIS VICTORY MAY INDEED BE ZEKIE'S, BUT IT WILL ALSO BE HIS LAST...
...FOR THEN HIS VAINGLORIOUS CAREER WILL END, FOR I WILL TAKE A PERSONAL HAND IN HIS DOWNFALL!
IT--T WON'T BE EASY GETTING RID OF THIS COLLAR! FIRST I'VE GOT TO CONCENTRATE... BREAK ITS GRIP ON MY PSYCHE... FREE MYSELF OF THE COMPULSION TO... BLINDLY OBEY!
NOW I'VE GOT TO USE THE M-VEST FORCE-FIELD POWER TO BREAK UP THE ENERGY STRUCTURE FROM WHICH THIS COLLAR AND SHACKLES HAVE BEEN FORGED!
AND... AND I'VE GOT TO DO IT... SLOWLY... SO AS NOT TO SIGNAL A SUDDEN <UNNGGHH!> FEEDBACK!
S-SO FAR... SO GOOD! NOW--GOT TO KEEP INCREASING... COUNTERFORCE...! INCREASE IT... UNTIL I CAN... CAN...
...BREAK OUT--! TH-THE COLLAR'S OFF! I'M FREE!
8


FREE ME TOO, FLAME-HAIR, OR ELSE I'LL EXPOSE YOUR ESCAPE!
BLAST IT! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO HELP HIM WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT!
FROM THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, I KNEW YOU WERE CLEVER, FLAME-HAIR!
JUST SHUT UP AND KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE GUARDS, XEXLO!
FREE! NEVER AGAIN WILL MIGHTY XEXLO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE SHACKLED OR TRICKED BY HIS ENEMIES!
KEEP WEARING THE COLLAR, XEXLO! PRETEND YOU'RE STILL UNDER ITS INFLUENCE AND SLOWLY MAKE YOUR WAY TOWARD THAT FOG PATCH!
YOU ARE A MAN OF CUNNING, FLAME-HAIR! I WILL NOT FORGET THAT!
LOOK! THAT ONE'S COLLAR IS OFF! HE'S NO LONGER UNDER OBEDIENCE COMPULSION!
MY COLLAR! IT-IT'S SLIPPED!
HURRY! STUN THEM BOTH INTO NEURO-PARALYSIS!
BAH! I'M GLAD THE COLLAR SLIPPED! XEXLO HAS ALWAYS PREFERRED RAW POWER TO TRICKERY!
BLAST YOU, XEXLO! NOW WE'LL HAVE ZORR'S ENTIRE ARMY SWARMING ALL OVER US!
WE'LL NEVER SHAKE THEM ALL! AND WHERE CAN WE POSSIBLY HOPE TO HIDE?
ONLY A COWARD HIDES FROM HIS ENEMIES, FLAME-HAIR!
ONCE XEXLO HAS FOUND WHAT HE SEEKS, XEXLO WILL STAND AND FIGHT!
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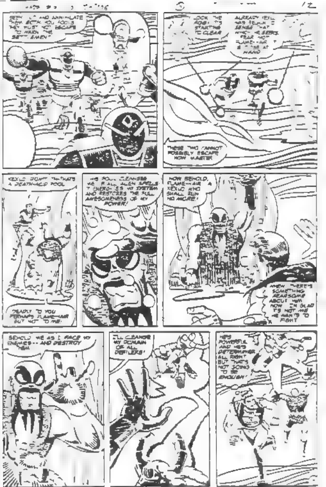
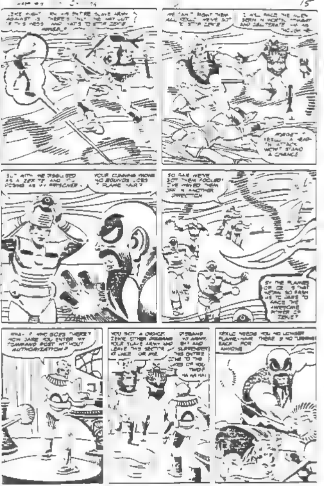
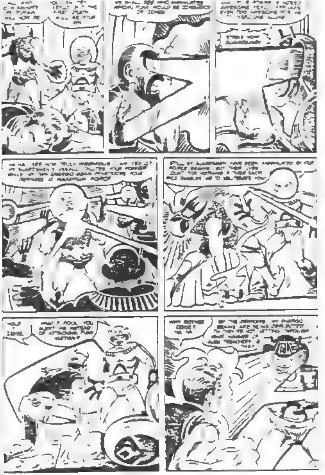
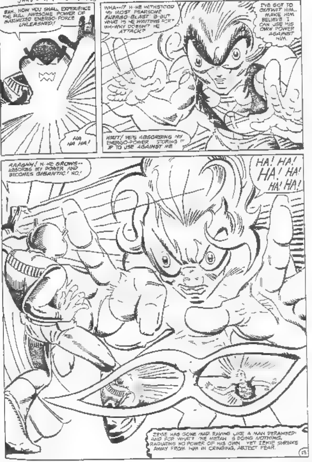
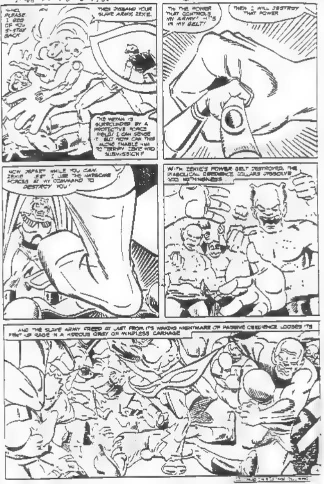

SEEK 'EM OUT AND ANNIHILATE THEM BOTH, YOU FOOLS! THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE TO WARN THE SETTLEMENT!
LOOK! THE FOG'S STARTING TO CLEAR
ALREADY XEXLO HAS BEGUN TO SENSE THAT WHICH HE SEEKS. FEAR NOT FLAME-HAIR! IT IS CLOSE AT HAND
THESE TWO CANNOT POSSIBLY ESCAPE NOW MASTER
XEXLO! DON'T! THAT'S A DEATH-ACID POOL
DEADLY TO YOU PERHAPS FLAME-HAIR BUT NOT TO ME!
THIS POOL CLEANSES ME OF ALL ALIEN SPELLS! IT ENERGIZES MY SYSTEM AND RESTORES THE FULL AWESOMENESS OF MY POWER!
NOW BEHOLD, FLAME-HAIR, A XEXLO WHO SHALL RUN NO MORE!
WHEW! THERE'S SOMETHING FEARSOME ABOUT HIM NOW. I'M GLAD IT'S NOT ME HE WANTS TO FIGHT
BEHOLD ME AS I FACE MY ENEMIES -- AND DESTROY THEM
I'LL CLEANSE MY DOMAIN OF ALL DEFILERS!
HE'S POWERFUL AND HE'S DETERMINED ALL RIGHT BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH!

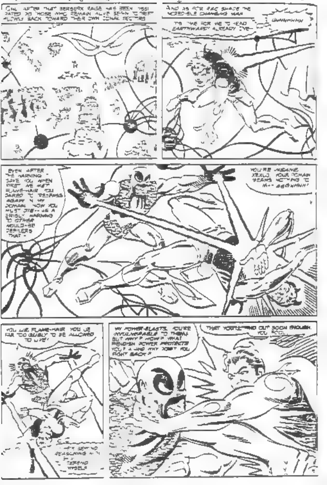

ZENE FIGHT... ON THE ENTIRE SLAVE ARMY AGAINST US. THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS MESS, AND THAT'S TO STOP ZENE'S ARMIES!
WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM ALL, KEXLO. WE'VE GOT TO STOP ZENE!
I WILL FACE THE ALIEN SERPENT IN MORTAL COMBAT AND OBLITERATE HIM AS [illegible]
FORGET IT, KEXLO. A HEAD-ON ATTACK WON'T STAND A CHANCE.
BUT WITH ME DISGUISED AS A ZENITE AND YOU POSING AS MY PRISONER...
YOUR CUNNING KNOWS NO BOUNDS, FLAME-HAIR?
SO FAR WE'VE GOT THEM FOOLED! I'VE WAVED THEM OFF IN ANOTHER DIRECTION.
BY THE FLAMES OF ICE... IS THAT WOMAN SO RASH AS TO DARE TO FACE THE AWESOME POWER OF ZENE?
WHA--? WHO GOES THERE? HOW DARE YOU ENTER MY COMMAND POST WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION?
YOU GOT A CHOICE, ZENE. EITHER DISBAND YOUR SLAVE ARMY AND LEAVE THIS SECTOR AT ONCE, OR DIE.
DISBAND MY ARMY, EH? AND SURRENDER THIS ENTIRE ZONE TO THE LIKES OF YOU TWO? HA HA HA!
KEXLO NEEDS YOU NO LONGER, FLAME-HAIR. THERE IS NO TURNING BACK FOR ANYONE!


WE SHALL SEE WHO ANNIHILATES
STRIKE NOW
HA HA, SEE HOW TRULY MARVELOUS ... PENETRATES YOUR DEFENSES AT MAXIMUM FORCE
STILL MY SUPERMEN HAVE BEEN ANNIHILATED ... BUT THEIR LIVES COUNT FOR NOTHING
WHAT A FOOL
WHY BOTHER ... HA HA
... MY ENERGO BEAMS ...

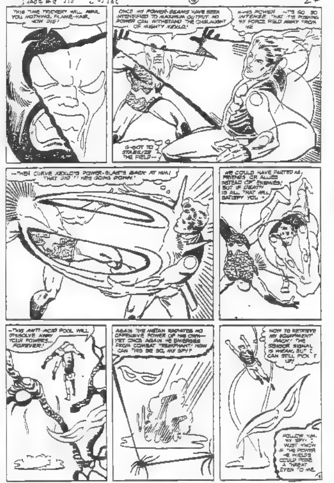
SHADE #9 S/O 1-5306

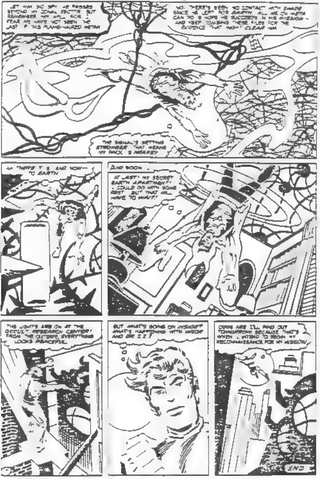

BAH. NOW YOU SHALL EXPERIENCE THE FULL AWESOME POWER OF MAXIMIZED ENERGO-FORCE UNLEASHED!
WHA--!? H-HE WITHSTOOD MY MOST FEARSOME ENERGO-BLAST! B-BUT WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR? WH-WHY DOESN'T HE ATTACK?
I'VE GOT TO OUTWIT HIM.. MAKE HIM BELIEVE I CAN USE HIS OWN POWER AGAINST HIM.
HA HA HA!
WAIT! HE'S ABSORBING MY ENERGO-POWER STORING IT UP TO USE AGAINST ME
AARGHH! H-HE GROWS-- ABSORBS MY POWER AND BECOMES GIGANTIC! NO!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
ZEKE HAS GONE MAD. RAVING LIKE A MAN DERANGED! AND FOR WHAT? THE METAN IS DOING NOTHING, RADIATING NO POWER OF HIS OWN YET ZEKE SHRINKS AWAY FROM HIM IN CRINGING, ABJECT FEAR.
13

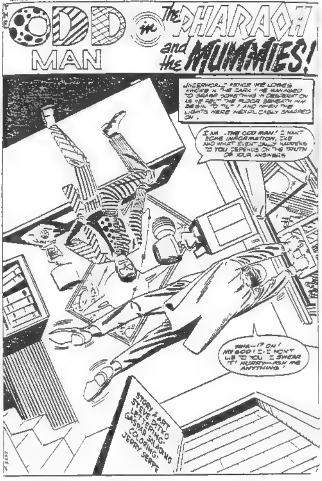

N-NO, PLEASE. I BEG OF YOU. S-STAY BACK
AH
THEN DISBAND YOUR SLAVE ARMY, ZEXIE.
THE METAN IS SURROUNDED BY A PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD! I CAN SENSE IT. BUT HOW CAN THIS ALONE ENABLE HIM TO TERRIFY ZEXIE INTO SUBMISSION?
TH-THE POWER THAT CONTROLS MY ARMY! IT'S IN MY BELT!
THEN I WILL DESTROY THAT POWER
NOW DEPART WHILE YOU CAN, ZEXIE... LEST I USE THE AWESOME FORCES AT MY COMMAND TO DESTROY YOU!
WITH ZEXIE'S POWER BELT DESTROYED, THE DIABOLICAL OBEDIENCE COLLARS DISSOLVE INTO NOTHINGNESS.
AND THE SLAVE ARMY FREED AT LAST FROM IT'S WAKING NIGHTMARE OF PASSIVE OBEDIENCE LOOSES ITS PENT-UP RAGE IN A HIDEOUS ORGY OF MINDLESS CARNAGE

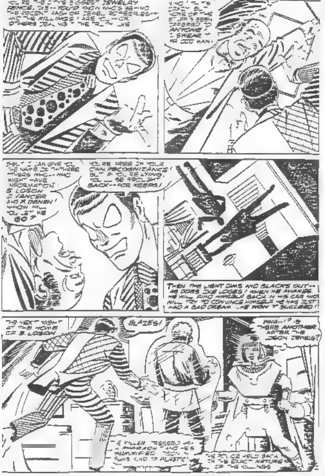


OH, AFTER THAT BERSERK RAGE HAS BEEN DISSIPATED DO THOSE WHO REMAIN ALIVE SEEM TO DRIFT SLOWLY BACK TOWARD THEIR OWN ZONAL SECTORS
AND AS FOR RAC SHADE THE INCREDIBLE CHANGING MAN
TIS TIME FOR ME TO HEAD EARTHWARD! ALREADY I'VE--
UNNNHHHN
EVEN AFTER THE WARNING I GAVE YOU WHEN FIRST WE MET FLAME-HAIR YOU DARED TO TRESPASS AGAIN IN MY DOMAIN. NOW YOU MUST DIE-- AS A GRISLY WARNING TO OTHER WOULD-BE DEFILERS THAT--
YOU'RE INSANE XEXLU. YOUR DOMAIN MEANS NOTHING TO M-- AGGHHHH!
YOU LIE, FLAME-HAIR. YOU'RE FAR TOO GUILTY TO BE ALLOWED TO LIVE!
...ARE SEEING NO REASONING WITH ... DEFEND MYSELF
MY POWER-BLASTS. YOU'RE INVULNERABLE TO THEM! BUT WHY? HOW? WHAT FIENDISH POWER PROTECTS YOU? AND WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT BACK?
THAT YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH, YOU FOOL.


THIS TIME TRICKERY WILL AVAIL YOU NOTHING, FLAME-HAIR. NOW DIE!
ONCE MY POWER-BEAMS HAVE BEEN INTENSIFIED TO MAXIMUM OUTPUT, NO POWER CAN WITHSTAND THE ONSLAUGHT OF MIGHTY XEXLO!
H-HIS POWER -- IT'S SO, SO INTENSE, THAT IT'S PUSHING MY FORCE FIELD AWAY FROM ME
G-GOT TO STABILIZE THE FIELD--
--THEN CURVE XEXLO'S POWER-BLASTS BACK AT HIM! THAT DID IT! HE'S GOING DOWN!
WE COULD HAVE PARTED AS FRIENDS OR ALLIES INSTEAD OF ENEMIES! BUT IF DEATH IS ALL THAT WILL SATISFY YOU--
--THIS ANTI-ACID POOL WILL DISSOLVE AWAY YOUR POWERS... FOREVER!
AGAIN THE METAN RADIATES NO OFFENSIVE POWER OF HIS OWN-- YET ONCE AGAIN HE EMERGES FROM COMBAT TRIUMPHANT! HOW CAN THIS BE SO, MY SPY?
NOW TO RETRIEVE MY EQUIPMENT PACK! THE SENSOR SIGNAL IS WEAK, BUT I CAN STILL PICK IT UP!
FOLLOW HIM, MY SPY. I MUST KNOW IF THE POWER HE WIELDS COULD POSE A THREAT EVEN TO ME.


LET HIM GO, SIR -- HE PASSES BEYOND MY ZONAL SECTOR. BUT REMEMBER HIM WELL, FOR I FEAR WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF THIS FLAME-HAIRED METEN!
NO, THERE'S BEEN NO CONTACT WITH SHADE SINCE HE LEFT FOR EARTH. ALL WE ON META CAN DO IS HOPE HE SUCCEEDS IN HIS MISSION -- AND KEEP COMBING THESE FILES FOR THE EVIDENCE THAT MIGHT CLEAR HIM.
THE SIGNAL'S GETTING STRONGER! THAT MEANS MY PACK IS NEARER!
AH! THERE IT IS, AND NOW -- TO EARTH!
AND SOON...
AT LAST! MY SECRET EARTH APARTMENT! I COULD DO WITH SOME REST, BUT THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT!
THE LIGHTS ARE ON AT THE OCCULT RESEARCH CENTER! FROM THE OUTSIDE, EVERYTHING LOOKS PEACEFUL.
BUT WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE? WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MISOR AND DR. Z.Z.?
ODDS ARE I'LL FIND OUT TOMORROW, BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN I INTEND TO BEGIN MY RECONNAISSANCE FOR MY MISSION!
END


THE ODD MAN in The PHARAOH and the MUMMIES!
UNDERWORLD FENCE IKE LOGES AWOKE IN THE DARK! HE MANAGED TO GRASP SOMETHING IN DESPERATION AS HE FELT THE FLOOR BENEATH HIM BEGIN TO TILT! AND WHEN THE LIGHTS WERE INEXPLICABLY SNAPPED ON.
I AM ...THE ODD MAN! I WANT SOME INFORMATION, IKE AND WHAT EVENTUALLY HAPPENS TO YOU DEPENDS ON THE TRUTH OF YOUR ANSWERS
WHA--!? OH! MY GOD! I-I WON'T LIE TO YOU! I SWEAR IT! HURRY--ASK ME ANYTHING!
STORY & ART STEVE DITKO LETTERING: GASPAR SALADINO COLORING: JERRY SERPE


YOU'RE THE CITY'S BIGGEST JEWELRY FENCE, IKE--YOU'D KNOW WHO'S BEHIND THE RECENT RASH OF JEWEL ROBBERIES--AND THE KILLINGS! I ASK YOU--OR OTHERS DEALING THE TRUTH, IKE
AND THAT'S CRAZY, BUT NONE OF THE STUFF'S BEEN OFFERED TO ANTOINE! I SWEAR IT, MR. ODD MAN!
BUT I CAN GIVE YOU THE NAME OF THE THREE OTHERS WHO--WHO MIGHT HAVE INFORMATION: S. LOSON, J. VANCER AND R. DENEH! NOW WILL YOU LET ME GO?
YOU'RE FREE ON YOUR OWN RECOGNIZANCE! BUT IF YOU'RE LYING, YOU'LL BE BROUGHT BACK--FOR KEEPS!
THEN THE LIGHT DIMS AND BLACKS OUT--AS DOES IKE LOGES! WHEN HE AWAKES, HE WILL FIND HIMSELF BACK IN HIS CAR AND WILL TRY TO CONVINCE HIMSELF HE HAS JUST HAD A BAD DREAM...HE WON'T SUCCEED!
THE NEXT NIGHT AT THE HOME OF S. LOSON
BLAZES!
WHAT--? IS THERE ANOTHER AFTER THE LOSON JEWELS?
THE KILLER DRESSED AS A PHARAOH, AND HE'S MUMMIFIED 'EM IN SOME KIND OF PLASTIC!
THE POLICE HELD BACK ON THE EXACT NATURE OF THE KILLINGS

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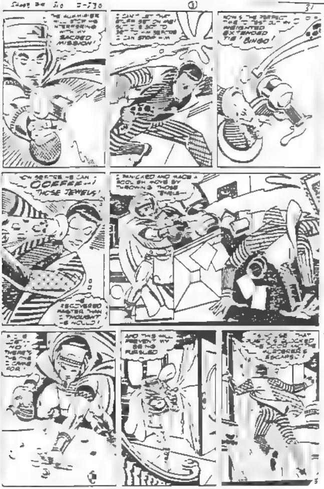
THE ALARM RINGER WILL STOP HIM INTERFERING WITH MY SACRED MISSION!
I CAN'T LET THAT STUFF GET ON ME! BUT I'VE GOT TO GET TO HIM BEFORE I CAN STOP HIM
NOW'S THE PERFECT TIME TO TEST OUT MY WEIGHTED EXTENDED TIE! BINGO!
OH BROTHER--HE CAN-- OOFFFF--! THOSE JEWELS!
HE RECOVERED FASTER THAN I THOUGHT HE WOULD!
I PANICKED AND MADE A FOOLISH MOVE BY THROWING THOSE JEWELS--
AH... YES-- NO! THERE'S THE ONE I CAME FOR!
AND THIS WILL PREVENT MY BEING PURSUED
TOO LATE THAT JUSTICE'S BLOCKED THE DOOR AND THE ALARMER'S ESCAPED!
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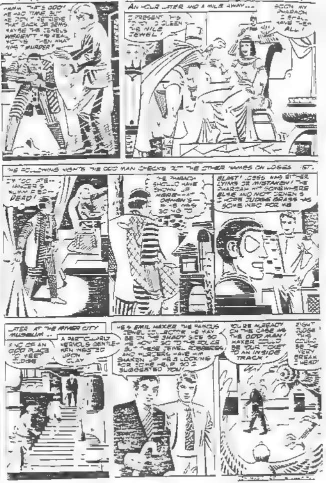
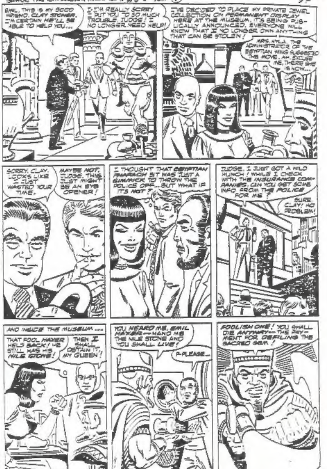

HMMM. THAT'S ODD! HE HAD TIME, BUT HE DIDN'T RETRIEVE THAT SACK OF GEMS. MAYBE THE JEWELS WEREN'T THE REAL MOTIVE. THEN WHAT WAS "MURDER"
AN HOUR LATER AND A MILE AWAY...
I PRESENT THIS TO YOU, O QUEEN - THE NILE JEWEL!
SOON, MY PHARAOH, I SHALL HAVE THEM ALL!
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE ODD MAN CHECKS OUT THE OTHER NAMES ON LOGES' LIST.
I'M TOO LATE -- DANCER'S ALMA REED -- DEAD!
THE PHARAOH SHOULD HAVE SHOWN UP HERE -- AT DENEN'S -- IF HE WAS GOING TO
BLAST! LOGES WAS EITHER LYING OR MISTAKEN! THE PHARAOH HIT SOMEWHERE ELSE AND NOT DENEN'S. I HOPE JUDGE BRASS HAS SOME INFO FOR ME
LATER, AT THE RIVER CITY MUSEUM..
KIND OF AN ODD PLACE TO MEET, JUDGE
A PARTICULARLY NERVOUS GENTLEMAN INSISTED UPON, CLAY
HE'S EMIL MAXER, THE FAMOUS JEWEL COLLECTOR. HE MAY BE ON THE SHADY SIDE, SO HE WON'T GO TO THE POLICE, BUT THESE JEWEL ROBBERIES AND MURDERS HAVE HIM SHAKEN UP. HE'S LOOKING FOR SOME HELP, SO I SUGGESTED YOU!
YOU'RE ALREADY ON THE CASE AS THE ODD MAN! MAXER COULD BE YOUR TICKET TO AN INSIDE TRACK!
RIGHT, JUDGE. THIS COULD BE THE VERY BREAK I NEED!


EMIL, THIS IS MY GOOD FRIEND, CLAY STONER. I'M CERTAIN HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU...
I-I'M REALLY SORRY I PUT YOU TO SO MUCH TROUBLE, JUDGE! I NO LONGER NEED HELP!
I'VE DECIDED TO PLACE MY PRIVATE JEWEL COLLECTION ON PERMANENT DISPLAY HERE AT THE MUSEUM. IT'S BEING PUBLICALLY ANNOUNCED. EVERYONE WILL KNOW THAT I NO LONGER OWN ANYTHING THAT CAN BE STOLEN!
MRS. NYLA, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE EGYPTIAN WING SUGGESTED THE MOVE. AH, EXCUSE ME, THERE SHE IS NOW...
SORRY, CLAY. LOOKS LIKE I JUST WASTED YOUR TIME.
MAYBE NOT, JUDGE. THIS JUST MIGHT BE AN EYE OPENER!
I THOUGHT THAT EGYPTIAN PHARAOH BIT WAS JUST A GIMMICK TO THROW THE POLICE OFF...BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT?
JUDGE, I JUST GOT A WILD HUNCH! WHILE I CHECK WITH THE INSURANCE COMPANIES, CAN YOU GET SOME INFO FROM THE POLICE FOR ME?
SURE, CLAY! NO PROBLEM!
AND INSIDE THE MUSEUM...
THAT FOOL MAYER HELD BACK! HE STILL HAS HIS NILE STONE!
THEN I SHALL OBTAIN IT, MY QUEEN!
YOU HEARD ME, EMIL MAYER--HAND ME THE NILE STONE AND YOU SHALL LIVE!
P-PLEASE...
FOOLISH ONE! YOU SHALL DIE ANYWAY--THE PAYMENT FOR DEFILING THE SACRED GEM!
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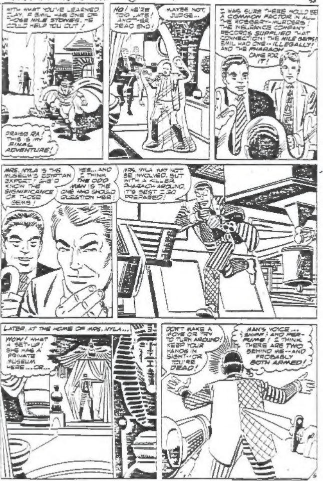
WITH WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED, CLAY, IF EMIL HAS ONE OF THOSE NILE STONES, HE COULD HELP YOU OUT!
PRAISE RA! THIS IS MY FINAL ADVENTURE!
NO! WE'RE TOO LATE! ANOTHER DEAD END!
MAYBE NOT, JUDGE...
I WAS SURE THERE WOULD BE A COMMON FACTOR IN ALL THE ROBBERY-MURDERS! THE INSURANCE COMPANY RECORDS SUPPLIED THAT CONNECTION: THE NILE GEMS! EMIL HAD ONE--ILLEGALLY! AND THE PHARAOH CAME FOR IT!
MRS. NYLA IS THE MUSEUM'S EGYPTIAN EXPERT! SHE'D KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE GEMS!
YES... AND I THINK THE ODD MAN IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD QUESTION HER!
MRS. NYLA MAY NOT BE INVOLVED, BUT WITH A KILLER PHARAOH AROUND, IT'S BEST I GO PREPARED!
LATER, AT THE HOME OF MRS. NYLA...
WOW! WHAT A SET-UP! SHE HAS A PRIVATE MUSEUM HERE...OR...
DON'T MAKE A MOVE OR TRY TO TURN AROUND! KEEP YOUR HANDS IN SIGHT--OR YOU'RE DEAD!
MAN'S VOICE... SNIFF! AND PERFUME! I THINK THERE ARE TWO BEHIND ME--AND PROBABLY BOTH ARMED!
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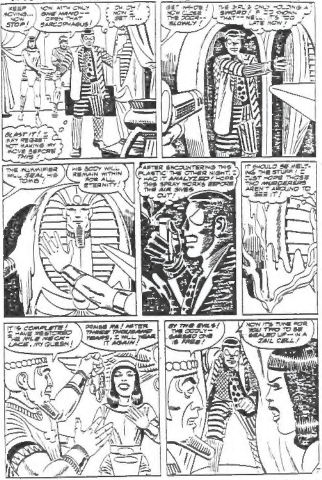
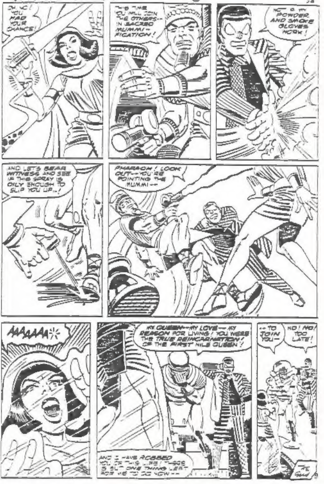

KEEP MOVING... NOW STOP!
NOW WITH ONLY ONE HAND-- OPEN THAT SARCOPHAGUS!
OH OH! NOW I GET IT...
BLAST IT! I MAY REGRET NOT MAKING MY MOVE BEFORE THIS!
GET INSIDE! NOW CLOSE THE DOOR-- SLOWLY!
THE GIRL'S ONLY HOLDING A SWORD! IF I'D KNOWN THAT--WELL, IT'S TOO LATE NOW!
THE MUMMIFIER WILL SEAL HIS TOMB!
HIS BODY WILL REMAIN WITHIN FOR ALL ETERNITY!
AFTER ENCOUNTERING THIS 'PLASTIC' THE OTHER NIGHT, I HAD IT ANALYZED! HOPE THIS SPRAY WORKS BEFORE THE AIR GIVES OUT!
IT SHOULD BE MELTING THE STUFF! I JUST HOPE THOSE TWO MURDERERS AREN'T AROUND TO SEE IT!
IT'S COMPLETE! I HAVE RESTORED THE NILE NECKLACE, MY QUEEN!
PRAISE RA! AFTER THREE THOUSAND YEARS, I WILL WEAR IT AGAIN!
BY THE EVILS! THE GOGGLY-GARBED ONE IS FREE!
NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TWO TO BE SEALED UP--IN A JAIL CELL!


OH NO! YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!
THIS TIME YOU WILL JOIN THE OTHERS-- IN SACRED MUMMI-FICATION!
NOT IF MY POWDER AND SMOKE GLOVES WORK!
AND LET'S BEAR WITNESS AND SEE IF THIS SPRAY IS OILY ENOUGH TO SLIP YOU UP--!
PHARAOH! LOOK OUT--YOU'RE POINTING THE MUMMI--
AAAAAA!
MY QUEEN--MY LOVE--MY REASON FOR LIVING! YOU WERE THE TRUE REINCARNATION! OF THE FIRST NILE QUEEN!
AND I HAVE ROBBED YOU OF THIS LIFE! THERE IS BUT ONE THING LEFT FOR ME TO DO NOW--
--TO JOIN YOU--
NO! NO! TOO LATE!
THE END